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**Commissioners Present:** Chairman Neil Brennan (Gaston County)  
Vice Chairman Peter Hegarty (Mecklenburg County)  
Secretary Treasurer Blanche Bryant (York County)  
Commissioner Ellen Goff (York County)  
Commissioner Smitty Hanks (Gaston County)  
Commissioner Debi Chacharon (York County)  
Commissioner Dan Hartley (Gaston County)  
Commissioner Hunter Wilson (Mecklenburg County)  
Commissioner Dan Mullane (Mecklenburg County)

**Staff Present:** Emily Parker, Administrator  
Chris Clark, Legal Counsel

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## Meeting Minutes

### ***Mission Statement***

*To promote public policies and support regulations for the preservation of Lake Wylie and its wildlife and for the education and safety of the citizens who use this beautiful natural resource.*

### **Item 1 – Welcome**

Chairman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone present.

### **Item 2 – Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Brennan asked if any changes need to be made to the May 21, 2018 minutes. Commissioner Goff moved to approve the May 21, 2018 minutes. Secretary Treasurer Bryant seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Item 3 – Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Brennan asked if any changes need to be made to the June 25, 2018 agenda. Commissioner Goff moved to adopt the June 25 agenda. Commissioner Chacharon seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Item 4 – Public Comment**

### **Item 5 – Stakeholder Reports**

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) – Officer Carey reported that Officer Joye would not be able to attend the LWMC meeting this evening. Officer Joye and other area law enforcement agencies were investigating a jet ski accident that happened at Big Allison right before the meeting started. Officer Carey commented that a 60-year-old man drowned at the NC sandbar over the weekend. The Charlotte Fire Department recovered his body the next morning. He noted that two units from the US Coast Guard – from Wilmington and Oak Island – will be on Lake Wylie over the next weekend. He added that the US Coast Guard will not be on Lake Wylie over July 4 holiday. Officer Carey said that over Memorial Day weekend, they issued two BWIs (boating while impaired) on Lake Wylie. Vice Chairman Hegarty asked if anything can be done about people renting jet skis *ad hoc* to people on the lake, without training. There was discussion about jet ski renters on Lake Wylie. Commissioner

Wilson suggested inviting jet ski renters and owners to a LWMC meeting for education about jet ski safety. Commissioner Hanks commented that he sees people riding on jet skis pulling other people on a float. He also sees people riding on jet skis when it is dark. Officer Carey added that jet skis do not have lights on them because they are not meant to be driven at night – a very dangerous activity.

Gaston County Police Department (GCPD) – Officer Hamrick reported that he just came from a jet ski crash call at Big Allison. He reported that two girls were riding on the same jet ski and ran into a concrete wall. One girl was being treated at the scene and the other girl was transported out for more specialized care.

York County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) – Sgt. Mabry was not present to report.

Tega Cay Police Department (TCPD) – No report was given.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) – Sgt. Laton was not present to report.

SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) – No report was given.

US Coast Guard – No report was given.

US Coast Guard Auxiliary – Mr. Ray Webber reported that the US Coast Guard Auxiliary is running fewer boats and will not be on the water over the July 4 holiday. He stated that their training classes are booked solid at Cabela's. If they find out of place buoys he will let Commissioner Wilson know. He announced that former US Coast Guard Auxiliary leadership on Lake Wylie, Mr. Rick Croasdale, was promoted to Division Vice Commander. In light of the recent drownings and boating accidents on Lake Wylie, Chairman Brennan asked for a few boater safety bullet points to pass on to local news stations before the weekend and July 4 holiday.

Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) – Mr. Dave Ferguson reported that they were on the water sampling in mid-May before flooding occurred. He reviewed the Lake Use Support Index (LUSI) map with the group. He reminded the LWMC that sampling sites PALC1 and PALC10 will not be sampled as of July 1, 2018. Mr. Ferguson said that his team is getting involved in [bathymetry](#), which means mapping the bottom terrain of a lake or other water body. LUESA staff will focus on coves at the River District development. He added that his team outfitted a kayak with technology to read water depth, contours, take GPS readings, etc., and it worked well thus far. When their work is done they will have information from water and from land and will have a complete bathymetric reading of a cove. The reading will give them a baseline understanding of water and environmental features of a cove which will be important as the River District development starts. Commissioner Wilson asked if the LUESA team is going to replicate the same level of monitoring that was in place at the Palisades development. Mr. Ferguson said likely so, but it will be better organized. There was discussion about the hydrilla on Lake Norman and how that plant can lay dormant for years and still come back. Commissioner Hanks asked if certain aquatic plants could improve the health of the lake. Mr. Ferguson commented that he does not think they would have an overall impact. Mr. Ferguson said his team of around 20 LUESA staff members would like to have boater safety training in the fall. Mr. Ferguson may coordinate training with Mr. Ray Webber.

Duke Energy – Mr. John Bradley reported that:

- Lake level: 97.0' (target level: 97.0')
- Low inflow protocol: Normal
- No dredge permits have been submitted or approved in the past month.

Gaston County Cove Keeper – No report was given.

Lake Wylie Lakekeeper Report – No report was given.

**Item 6 – Follow Up: No Wake Zone Request -- York County (D. Thompson)**

Commissioners Wilson and Goff visited the site in question in York County. Commissioner Goff noted that there may be more precarious spots on the lake, adding that it would be nice to have boats slowdown in this area. She also commented that the cove is probably too narrow to water ski through and this looks more like a property protection issue. Commissioner Mullane said that he used to live in a house that has a view of the area in question. He said that the real concern is that the island creates a blind spot and that people cannot see what is coming around the corner. There was discussion and conflicting opinions about whether SCDNR should look at the site. Commissioner Goff moved to send Mr. Thompson’s no wake zone request to SCDNR to review with no recommendation from the LWMC because the LWMC did not feel authorized to make a recommendation on this request. Commissioner Chacharon seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

**Item 7 – No Wake Zone Request -- York County (S. Heindl)**

Mr. Heindl was not present to address the group. However, Chairman Brennan brought aerial images of the site in question and distributed them to the LWMC. There was discussion about possible next steps. Commissioner Goff moved to table this request until the individual who submitted the request can be present to address the LWMC. Commissioner Hanks seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously. Ms. Parker will follow up with Mr. Heindl about attending the July meeting.

**Item 8 – Invitation from West Marine: Opportunity Consideration**

The LWMC was invited to set up a booth or table at a local West Marine, presumably during a weekend in the near future. Commissioner Wilson followed up on this item and left a voicemail at West Marine. There was discussion amongst the group about how to proceed. Commissioner Wilson questioned whether it would be worth their time and effort to have a staffed booth at West Marine. Chairman Brennan thought it may be worthwhile for a half day taking shifts. Commissioner Wilson will follow up with West Marine.

**Item 9 – Update: Status of Transfer of the Southern Law Center to York County**

Legal Counsel Clark reported that he drafted a letter to York County and the letter had been approved by Chairman Brennan. Chairman Brennan asked Mr. Clark to read the letter to the group, and he did. Commissioner Hanks asked what difference it would make if the LWMC transfers the property to York County or not, if York County is paying for all expenses related to the law enforcement center starting in fiscal year 2018-2019. Comments were made that the LWMC does not own the property, that the term of the lease did expire but automatically renews, and that the LWMC does not own the boathouse at the law enforcement center site. Commissioner Hanks asked how much it is worth of Mr. Clark’s time to transfer title to York County, when the County could just pay for expenses. Mr. Clark reminded the group that they voted on this – to convey the law enforcement center to York County – at the March 2018 LWMC meeting, but if the LWMC does not want to proceed with this plan, they can take another vote. It was pointed out that the LWMC does not need the liability of owning the building any longer. Commissioner Hanks moved for Legal Counsel Clark to send the letter to York County, as written. Commissioner Goff seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

**Item 10 – Duke Energy Shoreline Management Plan Update**

Commissioner Hanks participated in a recent Duke Energy Shoreline Management Plan meeting. He updated the LWMC on what was covered during that meeting. At the Shoreline Management Plan meeting, there was discussion about three different maps of the lake and how they are all different. A process happened to get the maps in alignment. Habitat enhancement programs were also discussed at that meeting. Commissioner Hanks focused on the fish-friendly pier program. This program targets new construction marinas, and possibly lake front homeowners, to get them to install fish-friendly piers, which are docks with fish attractors installed underneath. He said there are only two of these fish-friendly piers in existence in the Catawba-Wateree chain. Commissioner Hanks thought that the LWMC could help raise awareness about this program. Commissioner Goff asked how they are installed. There was discussion about why someone, or a marina, would install a fish-friendly pier. One

reason is to attract more fish. The group had questions about this program and how the fish attractors would be installed. Chairman Brennan would like answers to the LWMC's questions before they decide to help promote this program or not. Commissioner Hanks moved to further investigate fish-friendly piers to learn more and see how the LWMC could possibly help promote the program. Commissioner Mullane seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously. The Shoreline Management Plan group also talked about height restriction for docks. This topic will be discussed further at their June 2019 meeting.

#### **Item 11 – Catawba-Wateree Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA) Final Agreement Committee (FAC) Representative**

Chairman Brennan said that they are forming a Final Agreement Committee (FAC) to inform the licensing committee. The FAC would need one representative per entity and one alternate. Chairman Brennan said there are people on the FAC that can report to the LWMC, instead of the LWMC having representation on the FAC. Commissioner Hanks said that he would be willing to go if no one else can attend.

#### **Item 12 – Treasurer's Report**

Secretary Treasurer Bryant provided the Treasurer's report. She gave an overview of the LWMC financials as of May 31, 2018.

#### **Item 13 – FY 17-18 Budget Amendment**

Commissioner Goff moved to approve the FY 17-18 budget amendment as proposed. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

#### **Item 14 – FY 18-19 Budget**

- Public Hearing for Consideration of the FY 18-19 Budget Ordinance – Commissioner Goff moved to enter into Public Hearing to discuss and approve the FY 18-19 budget. Commissioner Hanks seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. There were no comments from the public. Commissioner Hanks moved to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Mullane seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- Discussion and Approval of the FY 18-19 Budget Ordinance – Commissioner Goff moved to approve the FY 18-19 budget. Commissioner Hartley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and the FY 18-19 budget was approved unanimously.

#### **Item 15 – Chairman's Report**

- Consideration of Contracting with CCOG for Administrative Services for FY 18-19 – Commissioner Goff moved to approve the contract with Centralina COG for FY 18-19. Commissioner Hanks seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

Chairman Brennan's report was as follows:

- Northern Law Center Update – The Belmont City Manager has budgeted funds for the estimated cost of the lift for the fire boat. Chairman Brennan met with representatives from the Belmont Rowing Club (BRC), Duke Energy, and the City of Belmont to discuss next steps in early June. The BRC will engage an engineering firm to provide the construction plan, and the LWMC may need to help defray some of the cost of the engineering drawings. Depending on the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, grading may be required to ensure the ramp to the police/fire boat house complies with that law. Chairman Brennan had a follow-on meeting with Perry Johnston and BRC representative Ms. Cindy White regarding boat house design and access. Vice Chairman Hegarty moved that the LWMC allocate up to \$500.00 to contribute to the engineering study. Commissioner Hanks seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.
- Chairman Brennan attended four Montcross Area Chamber of Commerce events.

- Discovered an error in the 2017 (latest) South Carolina Clean Marina Program Guidebook regarding the storm water section and advised Liz Hartje, the program overseer. She is correcting the Guidebook.
- Delivered an Electric Shock Drowning poster West Marine to display. Commissioner Goff moved that the LWMC reimburse Chairman Brennan for getting the electric shock drowning posters printed. Commissioner Hanks seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

#### **Item 16 – Clerk’s Report**

Ms. Parker did not have a report.

#### **Item 17 – Old/New Business and Commission Project Reports**

##### **a. Water Quality**

- Clean Marina/Clean Boating
  - Debris Bags – Alysen Woodruff, Solid Waste Collection and Recycling Clean Community Coordinator with York County will donate debris bags for Riversweep.
- Sedimentation (Policy, Presentations, Parity, and Education) – There was discussion about development and sedimentation issues across from Paw Creek. Commissioner Hanks will contact Joseph Alm with Gaston County to find out what is going on.
- Invasive Species and Impacts of Native Plants on Shoreline and Water – Commissioner Mullane introduced Ms. Ella Wickliff, UNC Charlotte intern for the LWMC. She updated the LWMC on her research thus far. Chairman Brennan asked Ms. Wickliff to look into possible funding or grant opportunities related to her research. She will present to the LWMC at the July and August meetings.
- PCBs and Heavy Metals in Fish – Commissioner Hanks did not have a report.

##### **b. Northern Law Center – Chairman Brennan covered this in the Chairman’s report.**

##### **c. Buoys**

- Buoy Maintenance – Chairman Brennan retrieved a wayward buoy from his neighbor’s dock. Commissioner Hanks said that Terry Everhart brought three buoys to his house. Commissioner Hanks asked if the LWMC wants to go to the expense of going to total stainless steel buoy hardware. He will get prices for stainless steel hardware and share that information at the July meeting.

##### **d. Safety Programs**

- Life Jacket Awareness – Secretary Treasurer Bryant reported that all LWMC branded life jackets had been given out to law enforcement agencies that patrol the lake.
- For Boat Rental Companies – Commissioner Wilson had nothing further to report.
- For Paddle Boats (kayaks/paddle boards) – Commissioner Wilson had nothing further to report.

##### **e. Public Information**

- Schedule, tours, media spokespersons, branding, Chambers of Commerce, email directory – Commissioner Wilson presented the idea of sending a postcard mailer out to all lake front residents on Lake Wylie. A main purpose of the mailer would be to educate residents about the Lake Wylie Marine Commission. He asked the LWMC for their thoughts. A comment was made that it could be advantageous to send a mailer, and it could probably be done in batches or sections. Commissioner Goff commented that she has an email blast ready to send to Riversweep volunteers.

Vice Chairman Hegarty moved to spend up to \$5,000.00 for hats and t-shirts for Riversweep 2018. Commissioner Hanks seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote was taken and approved unanimously.

#### **Item 18 – Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.